Hike in newsprint prices

221. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the public lector Newsprint units have recently raised the newsprint prices;

(b) if so, what are the compulsions ia raising the newsprint prices; and

(c) what will be it$_s$ overall impact on the newsprint industry and what steps are being contemplated by Government to protect this industry?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The rise in the price of newsprint announced by the indigenous manufacturers towards the end of May, 1992 has been mainly on account of escalations ki input cost*.

(c) There is no statutory control on the prices of newsprint. However, they have been sent for ex-post facto review regarding their reasonableness, to Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices.

Microwave link to Ahemedabad Doordarshan

222. SHRI VrTHALBHAI M. PATEL: W31 the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have assured that the Ahmedabad Doordarshan will be provided microwave link in early 1992;

(b) what are the reasons for delay in providing microwave linkage to Ahmedabad Doordarshan; and

(c) by when the Ahmedabad Doordarshan is likely to be provided microwave linkage?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TNFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRUA VYAS): (a) to (c) The various high power and low power TV transmitters in Gujarat are envisaged to be linked to Doordarshan Kendra, Ahmedabad via satellite instead of microwave mode of linkage for dissemination of regional TV service. As per present indications, the service is expected to be introduced by iDecember, 1992.

Completion Of CBI inquiry into the sponsored T.V. ceria*

223. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Bureau of Investigation has completed the inquiry into malpractices of selecting the sponsored TV serials; and

(b) if not, by when Government are expecting the inquiry report from C.B.I.?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) No, Sir-

(b) The Information & Broadcasting, Ministry has asked C.B.I, to expedite the complete the inquiry on priority basis.

Deployment of army to sensitive area

224. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVTYA:
SHRl DIGVUAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government propose to handover all the electronic media installations in Punjab, Chandigarh, Jammu

and Kashmir, Haryana and Delhi to the Army till there is a improvement in the law and order situation in these areas; and

(h) if go, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THT. MINISTRY OF 'INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRJJA VYAS): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, para-military forces 1'ke BSF/CRPF are being deployed to guard AIR/Doordarshan installations in the States of Punjab, and Jammu & Kashmir for providing adequate security.

Security to electronic media Employee

225. SHRI D1GVUAY SINGH:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:
SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:

Will th$_e$ Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be p&ased to state:

(a) whether Government hav$_e$ received any suggestion that a fool proof security cover should be provided to all electronic media employees and their famflie* in all sensitive areas to restore their confidence; and

(b) if to, what are the details of such suggestions and the steps taken by Government in that direction?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRI! A VYAS): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, one of the demands put forward by the variou$_s$ Associations $_0$f AIR/Doordarshan employees tn th$_e$ wake of the killing of the Station Engineer, AIR Patiala, wa$_s$ that the security of AIR/Doordarshan installations in the State of Punjab and J & K should t*$_e$ handed oyer to the para military force*. Accordingly, BSF/CRPF personnel are being deproved to guard AIR Doordarshan installations in the States of Punjab and J & K . An Inter-Ministerial Group comprising representatives of Minisrty of Home Affairs, Ministry of Information and Broadcastin and Media Units is reviewing the status of security of media installations in Punjab and J & K.

Killing of the Station Director; AIR Patiala

226. SHRI RAIUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHAND-RAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pfeased to state:

(a) whether it i» a fact that mflitants who had taken the responsibility of kidnapping the Station Director. ATR Patiala Shri M. L. Manchanda had as on© of th$_e$ conditions for his release sought prescription of a code of conduct for electronic media in Punjab;

(b) if so, what were th$_e$ conditions offered by them and what effort* were made by Government to secure bag release; and

(c) whether the headless body of the said Station Director was later recovered front one place and his head from ano ther after a lapse of over forty days; if so, what steps have been taken to restore confidence amongst the media staff in Punjab?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) to (c) A statement relaased to th*. Press by a militant organisation claimed responsibility for the kidnapping of the Station Engineer, AIR, Patiiala and contained conditions pertaining to the broadcast and telecast of programmes from AIR & Doordarshan Stations in Punjab and Chandigarh. The conditions included (i) broadcast of a letter written by the convicts in General A. S. Vaidva's murder case through th$_e$ national hook up of AIR and Doordarshan; (ii) broadcast of all programmes in Punjabi by ATR Stations of Chandigarh, Jalandhar, Patiala and Bhatinda; (Hi) stoppage of national Hindi bulletins' from these Stations; (iv)